

7/14/2020

# Bellwood-Antis School District Re-opening Plan



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## Overview

The Bellwood-Antis School District (BASD) will reopen for in-person learning on August 25, 2020. In order to do so safely, a committee consisting of representation from all stakeholders has developed a school re-opening plan. The primary goal of this plan is to ensure a safe environment, limiting the possibility of COVID-19 exposure. A survey was presented to Bellwood-Antis families to seek feedback about the end of the 2019-20 school year, and present concerns and input related to the reopening of school for 2020-21. This initial survey was conducted in June 2020, and the participation was well above average. A more specific survey/questionnaire is planned to seek more concrete data about the BASD Re-Opening Plan, this will occur in mid-July. As we want our students, staff, and parents to feel as comfortable as possible, this plan is meant to be a draft for discussion and feedback. As you review the document, please consider providing feedback using the discussion feature on the Bellwood-Antis School District webpage ([www.blwd.k12.pa.us](http://www.blwd.k12.pa.us)).

## School Reentry Planning Committee

As the plans for re-opening evolve, BASD is determined to engage students, staff, families, and community members on the various options and considerations. Committee members represent:

- Superintendent- Dr. Thomas McInroy (PANDEMIC COORDINATOR)
- Business manager- Ms. Kim Van Gorder
- School based administrators- Dr. Don Wagner, Mr. Rick Schreier, Mr. Matt Stinson, Ms. Jamie Forshey, Mr. Tom Kovac, Mrs. Carol Beard, Mr. Mike Lingenfelter, Mrs. Taylor Danko, Mrs. Jen Weaver, Mrs. Nicole Engleman & Dr. Terri Harpster (Retired)
- Teachers- Miss Carrie Clippard, Mrs. Danielle McNelis, Mrs. Maggie Shawley, Mrs. Sally Padula, Mr. Tim Trexler, Mr. Tim Andrekovich, Mr. Drew Moyer, Miss Heather Erickson, Mrs. Rachel Doyle, Mrs. Shannon Elder,
- Support staff- Amber Briggs, April Cramer, Jess Servello, Krista Spiker, Jody Adams, Chris Diehl, Mandy Koozer, Amy Chamberlin, Tim Mercer, Shae Harklerode
- Board Members- Tom Finn, Hope Ray, Tim Mallon
- Health care professionals- Nadia Andrews, Kelly Hoover, Dr. Kimble (BASD Physician)
- Parents- Schreier, Stinson, Kovac, Engleman, McNelis, Doyle, Briggs, Servello, Spiker, Koozer, Finn, Mallon, Andrews

## Guiding Principles

Decisions related to re-opening are being guided by the latest recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local / state governments. As we are not able to predict the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have chosen to rely on a set of guiding principles to assist as we make decisions and evaluate the plans effectiveness.

1. The health and safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance.
2. All public health recommendations will be weighed carefully when making any decisions related to school opening, schedule modification or closure.
3. We will comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
4. We will continue to focus on student achievement and creating learner-centered classrooms while meeting the needs of individual students.

5. We will maintain fiscal responsibility.

### Likely Realities and Constraints

The course of the pandemic is unpredictable; however, we believe that there are some likely realities that our staff, students, and families can anticipate. Anticipating these likely scenarios will allow for a more realistic and flexible plan:

1. The virus will not disappear by August 2020, but the rate of infection may change. As a result, BASD will remain committed to adjusting its approach based on the current spread in the region.
2. The availability of COVID-19 testing will improve, but it is unclear by how much. As the capacity for testing improves, the need for some modifications to 'normal routines' may change.
3. Students will return for in-person learning in August 2020. Although in-person learning will occur, there will be modifications to the traditional school day.
4. Virtual learning will continue. Even with school opening in August, some students may have medical conditions that will prohibit them from attending in-person instruction, and some students and / or parents may choose not to participate in in-person learning. Furthermore, depending on the phase, online learning may be necessary to supplement in-person instruction.

### Fall Re-Opening Scenarios

Currently, BASD is considering several possible re-opening scenarios for the fall. Each scenario is designed to adhere to our guiding principles for re-opening and maximizing the amount of in-person instruction for students, while also keeping our community safe and following the guidance of public health officials and applicable laws and regulations. In any scenario, BASD will make use of all available space and scheduling flexibility to reduce class size. Other students may still be participating in class either virtually or in small group sessions. Schedules may be simplified to provide more emphasis on literacy, mathematics and core classes.

#### Limiting Class Size (Building Principals and Supervisors)

- Students should be socially distanced three to six feet apart pursuant to CDC and PDE guidelines, to an extent available.
- If six feet is not achievable in the classroom setting, students should be spaced to the maximum extent possible.
- Utilize additional spaces for larger groups.
- Identify small groups and keep them together (cohort).
- Limit mixing between groups if possible.
- Adjust daily schedule and student schedules to maintain appropriate class size.
- Explore possible "hybrid" day structure to reduce the number of students in the building.

#### Social Distancing (Building Principals and Supervisors)

- Schedules should be as static as possible by having the same group of students with the same group of staff based on age and developmental level.
- Restrict interactions between groups of students.
- Limit gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain social distancing.
- Hold classes in gyms, auditoriums, other large spaces, or outdoors when possible.

- Turn desks facing the same direction or have students only sit on one side of the table, spaced apart.

#### Face Coverings (Pandemic Coordinator and Administrative Team)

Use of face coverings will comply with state and CDC recommendations in school buildings.

#### Cafeteria (Nutrition, Inc Leadership and Administrative Team)

- Students will be assigned seats.
- Cafeteria employees will enter student PIN codes for the students.
- Students will be spaced out utilizing extra seating options (locations) and/or alternate areas that reflect social distancing
- Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer, provided at stations within the cafeterias, prior to consuming food or beverages.
- Parents /guardians will be encouraged to deposit funds using the on-line payment portal, avoiding the handling of cash and checks in the cafeterias.
- Meal condiments will be limited and provided to students on the serving trays.
- Students will not be permitted to serve themselves for items such as fruit and or vegetable selections.
- Staff will serve students all meal components. Selection of fruits and vegetables will be limited.
- Student dining areas and cafeteria serving areas will be thoroughly cleaned between lunch periods.

#### Use of Communal Spaces (Building Principals and Supervisors)

- Create schedules to limit the number of students in hallways.
- Separate students within common areas:
  - Arrival
  - Dismissal Lines
  - Lunch
- Pursue virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible, and promote social distancing of at least 3 to 6 feet between people if events are held.

#### Physical Education (Building Principals and Supervisors)

- Teachers will select and provide safe opportunities for exercise and activities for students.
- Consider:
  - Physical proximity of players.
  - Amount of touching of shared equipment.
  - Ability to engage in social distancing while not engaged in active play.
- Students will not be utilizing the locker room areas for physical education as they will not be required to change into uniforms. Activities will be limited so there is minimal cross contamination of equipment. All equipment will be sanitized after each use.

#### Recess (Building Principals and Supervisors)

- Limit to one group of students, following social distancing guidelines while using playground structures.
- Ensure adequate playground equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc.) to limit the sharing of items or limit to one group of students at a time and disinfect between uses.

- Limit team sports and group games following social distancing guideline

### What happens if student or staff get sick? (Pandemic Coordinator, School Nurses, & Administrative Team)

- Work with school administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.
- Close off the area used by a person testing positive for COVID-19 and do not use before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Notify staff and families confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.
- Students will have access to virtual learning that is occurring in school
- Persons who have COVID-19 symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
  - 10 days from the onset of symptoms.
  - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for the previous 72 hours.
  - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

OR

- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

### Visitors in the Building (Building Principals, Supervisors, and Security Staff)

- Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities that involve other groups.
- Temperatures will be taken before approved visitors, wearing face coverings, are permitted to enter the office or building
- No outside individuals renting facilities under VISITOR POLICY. (This will be re-evaluated in the future)
- Limit large group activities such as extracurriculars in accordance with PIAA and PMEA Guidelines.
- Ensure all large group activities including, but not limited to assemblies, concerts, and theater shows follow social distancing guidelines.
- Packages are to be disinfected before sent to the appropriate location.

### Choral Music and Instrumental Music (Building Principals)

- Follow appropriate instrument cleaning practices.
- Teachers will instruct students on proper cleaning practices prior to resuming instrumental music lessons or classes.
- Select and provide safe opportunities for music instruction for students.
- Consider:
  - Physical proximity of students.
  - Use of appropriate facilities to accommodate social distancing.
  - Amount of touching of shared equipment.

- Ability to engage in social distancing while not engaged in active play.
- Engagement of players at higher risk.
- Size of group

### Cleaning and Sanitation (Pandemic Coordinator, Director of Facilities, and Administrative Team)

- Increased use of PPE required (masks, gloves, face-shields)
- Increase Social Distancing & Hygiene Practices.
- The district will follow the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on buses at least daily, including door handles, sink handles, and drinking fountains.
- Drinking fountains will be turned off. Students will be encouraged to bring water from home. The district will provide safe alternatives when possible.
- Weekly use of Electrostatic Spray Disinfectant.
- Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows, doors, and/or fans.

### Hygiene in School (Pandemic Coordinator, Director of Facilities, School Nurses, and Administrative Team)

- All staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to students.
- Ensure handwashing and other best practice strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- CDC handwashing resources that include health promotion materials, information on proper handwashing technique, and tips for families to help children develop good handwashing habits.
- Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices.
- School nurses will provide training on the use of district issued thermometers
- Temperatures will be taken twice a day first during homeroom and before lunch if possible

### Posting Signs (Pandemic Coordinator, Director of Facilities, & Building Principals)

- Post CDC *Germs Are Everywhere* and *Wash Your Hands* Posters in all Cafeterias and Restrooms and other high traffic areas.
- Include Posters focusing on Social Distancing and Face Coverings

### Communication with Families (Pandemic Coordinator, Building Principals, Technology Leadership)

- Post Health and Safety Plan on Bellwood-Antis School District Website and digital communication tools.
- Provide regular update information on Bellwood-Antis School District Website, digital communication tools and in parent flyers/letters.
- Prepare parents and families for remote learning if school is temporarily dismissed

### Additional Safety Protocols- Vulnerable Individuals (Pandemic Coordinator, Building Principals, and Supervisors)

- Extra precautions in low incidence programs (AS, MDS, LSS).
- Servicing students in low incidence programs can be problematic due to, but not limited to, students with medical concerns, students not understanding the importance of wearing a mask, students unable to maintain proper social distance, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, students requiring assistance with feeding or toileting.
- For these reasons, extra precautions will be implemented. These precautions include:
  - If a sink is available in the classroom, staff should thoroughly wash hands immediately before and after working with a student.
  - Avoid the use of communal objects for student reinforcement. If such objects are used with multiple students, each object should be disinfected immediately before and after student use.
- Personal student iPads or devices should be disinfected each time a student enters or exits the classroom.
- The district's feeding protocol should be followed when feeding students. Staff should wear gloves when feeding students.
- Bathrooms and changing tables should be disinfected before and after student use. Limit students to one at a time.
- Students should be assisted with handwashing.
- Students should be encouraged to wear masks while in common areas such as the hallway.
- Students should be encouraged not to touch walls and fixtures when in hallways.
- Virtual Learning will be offered, through Bellwood-Antis School District, to assist students unable to attend the school setting.

### Transportation (Pandemic Coordinator, Transportation Contractor, and Security Staff)

- Routes will be developed, paying attention to balancing student ridership.
- Arrival and dismissal times will be adjusted as needed to ensure time to disinfect bus seats and high touch surfaces.
- Social distancing will be enforced through assigned seats.
- Students will be required to wear masks.
- When possible, family members will be placed in the same seats.
- Extracurricular and Educational field trips will be limited.
- Roof hatches and windows will be opened whenever possible to allow for the best ventilation.
- School buses and vehicles will be disinfected nightly, at minimum.

### Virtual Learning Opportunities (Building Principals, Supervisors, and Technology Leadership)

- Virtual Learning will be offered, through Bellwood-Antis School District, to assist students unable to participate in "in person" learning at school.
- All BASD Coursework will be presented via Learning Management System- Grade K-4 Seesaw; Grade 5-12 Google Classroom.



- Although live instruction in the school building will occur, the structure of all courses will be formatted to allow for seamless movement into a remote learning environment, if necessary.

Each of the scenarios may need to be amended as the variables of the pandemic change.

### Ongoing monitoring and feedback

To ensure the Bellwood-Antis School District re-opening and re-entry plan continue to adhere to our guiding principles, the BASD will engage in regular monitoring of our plan and its success.

Broadly, the committee will continue to monitor our success in these five categories:

<b>What we want to know?</b>	<b>How will we know?</b>
1. Do our students, families, and staff feel safe? Is our community adhering to recommended public health measures?	1. Regular site walk-throughs 2. Surveys 3. Focus groups
2. Are our students making enough academic progress?	1. Assessment data 2. Teacher and parent feedback
3. Are our students receiving enough social and emotional interaction and support?	1. Student surveys 2. Focus groups 3. Teacher and parent feedback
4. How are our employees adjusting to the modified schedule?	1. Surveys 2. Focus groups 3. Informal discussion
5. Are we allocating our resources to ensure long-term sustainability	1. Budget reviews 2. Surveys